

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 8 of 1877.

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 24th February 1877.

ADVERTING to the Queen's speech on the opening of Parliament, and especially to that part of it which has reference to India, the *Bhārat Sangskarak*, of the 12th February, remarks:—We are, indeed, gratified to learn that Her Majesty has appreciated the loyalty of the natives of India to her throne; but regret that the Royal speech contained no reference to the Viceroy's address, and no promise of any new favors to be imparted to us. The famine in Madras and Bombay has moved her deeply; and she has expressed her sympathy for the sufferers, and given assurance of relief. We earnestly beg to inform Her Majesty that the present famine far exceeds in severity that of 1873; but the arrangements for relief are not anything like what were then undertaken. Ever since the new Finance Minister came to office, the declared policy of Government has been that every effort should be made to save a pice rather than save the lives of those who are exposed to starvation. The sympathetic Viceroy has himself declared that he cannot be in any way responsible for the lives of the subjects; while, to effect a saving, Sir Richard Temple, the Superintendent of the Relief Operations, has made rules to exact work out of the labourers, by giving them only half rations. Already deaths from starvation are reported of; and, unless the Home Government take prompt and vigorous measures to suppress the famine, not a few places in India will in all probability be depopulated.

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SANGSKARAK,
February 12th, 1877.

2. The same paper, in an article on the "University examinations," writes:—We cannot tell whether the present system, under which a candidate, in order to pass successfully, must obtain a certain number of marks in each subject, is the most beneficial. Under the old system, a total number of marks was all that was required, no matter what the number on any particular subject. It is evident, however, that, among those who pass the University Examinations, there are not now, as formerly, persons thoroughly proficient in any one subject. The public have no means of judging of their merits; as the answers to the questions set in a University Examination are not published; thus dispensing with a valuable means of encouraging examinees. The prevalence of *cram* has brought a disgrace on the examinations of the University; and it doubtless must continue to prevail, so long as a candidate, intelligent or otherwise, is required to obtain a pass-mark in each subject. Formerly, however, a candidate might pass in any one subject for which he showed an aptitude; and he was not, as now required, to learn things for which he had no natural bent. A proper development of the faculties is thus retarded; while the prospects of a candidate may be at once blighted, from his inability to obtain perhaps one or two marks only in one subject, though he may prove to be quite the best man in another.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

A great deal of mischief is done under this unnatural system; and we are, therefore, glad to learn that the late Mr. Woodrow had actually made a proposal to revert to the old arrangement.

The abolition of text-books in English literature for the Entrance Examination has proved a great benefit; though the reason why they should continue to be fixed for the F.A. and B.A. examinations really passes our comprehension. For, if it be good to fix no standard books for the preliminary examination, is it not much more desirable not to fix them for the subsequent ones, the candidates for which must be presumed to be further advanced and possessed of more information than those who go in for the former?

The authorities of the University should make some arrangement for the examination of females who might choose to appear as candidates. As far as we know, we may say that the present mathematical test appears to be a difficult one for them; in literature they make considerable and more rapid progress than boys.

3. A correspondent of the same paper observes that the system of taking down the deposition of witnesses, which now obtains in the courts, is neither convenient nor just to all the parties in a law suit. Acting on his own impression, the presiding officer is at liberty to record the evidence in a manner so arbitrary, as may be expected to lead to extremely injurious consequences. It therefore behoves Government to direct that the written depositions be read to the parties or submitted to their inspection. We hope that the importance of the subject will commend itself to the attention of the authorities.

4. Adverting to the appointment of Roy Gopal Hari Deshmukh, the Judge of the Small Cause Court of Ahmedabad, to the Joint Judgeship of Nassik, on a pay, which is smaller than what would have been given to a Civil Servant, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 16th February, makes the following observations:—We had expected that Lord Lytton would say some thing about the appointment of natives to the Civil Service, on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi; and Sir Richard Temple also had nominated two men for this honor. But all omission of the subject at the Durbar, and the mysteriously significant speech of the Viceroy filled us with despair; and we thought that it was almost impossible, for any other province of India, to obtain what had been denied to Bengal. This exhibition of courage, and a noble sense of duty, therefore, of the Bombay Government has been exceedingly re-assuring; and should not its conduct put to shame other Governments? Will they not be brought to feel the low morality of the policy which keeps Bengalis from their just rights? When will Government be disposed to do this important duty? And when will it, forgetting its love to Civilians, learn to act justly? We do not object to the reduced pay on which Mr. Deshmukh has been appointed; but would, on the contrary, insist on the reduction of all high salaries by the elevation of natives to the majority of civilian appointments; though we do not know what the people will think, when they notice a distinction made in the matter of pay unfavorable to the natives only. We are, however, thankful to the Bombay Government, inasmuch as by conferring a high appointment, though one only, on a native, it has redeemed the promise made by the Queen, and carried out the wishes of Parliament.

5. The following is the substance of a long editorial in the same paper:—The expensiveness of litigation has become a source of extreme difficulty and inconvenience. Yet it cannot be obviated, seeing that neither

BHARAT
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February 12th, 1877.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 16th, 1877.
Circulation about 650.

BHARAT MIHIR.

redress of oppressions, nor recovery of property can be had, without the intervention of the law courts. We thank the Government for the enjoyment of peace and security, and for the comparative paucity of crimes. But the expensiveness of litigation has almost closed the doors of justice to the poor; and it is felt to be a hardship even by the middle classes. The people are fleeced of almost everything they possess, from being required at every step to pay for stamps, talabana, &c. Then, again, suits are not disposed of on the day appointed for hearing, thus subjecting the parties to trouble and loss. How many wealthy families have been utterly ruined and reduced to beggary by such expenses. In many instances it is almost the same, whether a case be won or lost. A court of justice should be a place to which all might have free access; and the authority of law and justice should be always maintained by Government. Under the British Government, justice has, indeed, been brought to the doors of the people by the establishment of law courts, police stations, and jails in different parts of the country, but the costs of litigation and the oppressions of the police make them unwilling to avail themselves of these advantages. It is a matter of reproach to our rulers that, in this country, justice is sold at a very high price, in order to procure the means for meeting the high salaries of its servants. But this necessity no longer continues. England is now, as it were, brought nearer to India by the improved means of communication; and the inducement, in the shape of high pay, which it was formerly necessary to hold out to competent men in England, to secure their services, is not now required. Natives have also become qualified to hold high appointments in the public service. It is plainly the duty of Government to banish its partiality towards the Civilians, and at once commence a reform in the administration by reducing their pay.

6. The same paper notices an outbreak of agrarian disturbances in some parts of Mymensingh. In some cases the ryots have contented themselves with harrying the naib or the tehsildar; in others, with intimidating the zemindar. There has not, however, been yet any formidable combination, as that in Pubna and Serajgunge.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 16th, 1877.
Circulation about 650.

7. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the invidious distinction made by the East Indian Railway Company between its native and European employes, in the matter of contributions to, and profits arising from, the Provident and the Guarantee Funds.

BHARAT MIHIR.

8. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 15th February, makes the following observations, in an article on "Trial by Judicial Benches." Adverting to the expensiveness of conducting litigation in the High Court, which proves simply ruinous in many cases, the First Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court has proposed to Government an extension of its jurisdiction, so far as the inhabitants of Calcutta are concerned. The proposal, if carried out, will doubtless be exceedingly beneficial. The exorbitant cost of litigation is also a subject which has engaged the attention of Sir Richard Garth, who has submitted a scheme for the institution of District Appellate Benches, whereby the number of appeal cases in the High Court might be reduced. We fully concur in the propriety of these proposals, and believe that Appellate Benches, similar to those suggested by the Chief Justice, should also be introduced into the Calcutta Small Cause Court, simultaneously with its enhanced powers; and though there be no such increase of power, the hasty way in which suits are disposed of in the court should not be permitted to continue, as being productive of extremely injurious consequences.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
February 15th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217

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February 15th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217.

9. The same paper observes that it seems to be a well established fact that the number of crimes in a country depends directly on the rigour or the leniency of its criminal law; and it is therefore open to question whether the severity of the sentence lately passed on the two criminals Hridaya Pátra and Jadu Náth Gángooly, by the High Court, and approved of by Mr. Eden, has been beneficial to the public interests. So far as we could judge, it would have been very proper for the Lieutenant-Governor to extend his mercy to them; though we admit His Honor's argument to the contrary is unanswerable. The cruel system of procedure, under which their trial was conducted, does not obtain in any other country; and the precedents now created will offer a powerful stimulus for the hard punishment of offenders. There would, however, have been no harm in showing mercy; while this might have induced confidence towards the Government in the minds of the people.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

10. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the grievances of the native employés on the East Indian Railway. They are overworked; of leave they are allowed little. Increase of pay, which is very low, is seldom given. They are obliged to remain in wretched huts, where no one would dream of remaining with a family. Since such is the case, what wonder that they should take to drinking and contract other immoral habits?

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
February 16th, 1877.

11. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 16th February, comments on the injurious consequences which have resulted from the introduction of the system of summary trials. As jeopardizing their liberty and honor, the people are opposed to it. The writer then proceeds to give the details of a case, recently tried summarily, by a native Deputy Magistrate of Moorshedabad, in which an unduly rigorous sentence was passed on a boy of 15 years of age for slightly beating his wife.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA.

12. The same paper expresses his disappointment at the Viceroy's speech on the occasion of the Delhi Assemblage, and remarks, that now, when natives have learnt to value their rights, it is not wise in the rulers to perpetuate the injustice which has been so long done to them. It behoves Government with promptitude to fulfil its promises, and act sincerely towards the natives of India.

PRATIKAR,
February 16th, 1877.
Circulation about 235.

13. The *Pratikár*, of the 16th February, adverts to the constant vacillations which characterize the policy of Government, from frequent changes in the Administrative Staff. Thus, proposals are commonly made and sometimes carried out for the amalgamation or severance of provinces, although little or no good may be derived from it. Assam was thus severed from Bengal and formed into a Commissionership. The measure has involved considerable expenditure; and has materially retarded the progress of that province. It might have been safely continued under the Bengal Government for the same reasons which have now led to the amalgamation of Oudh with the North-Western Provinces. Sir Richard Temple, again, has proposed to create four new districts in Bengal for the benefit of his brother Civilians. We cannot tell whether there is any need for the measure proposed; but it is almost certain that an additional charge will be laid on the public revenues.

PRATIKAR.

14. While noticing, with gratification, the elevation of a native officer to the Joint Judgeship of Nassik, in Bombay, the same paper regrets that, in Bengal, the Government is averse to the promotion of natives to such responsible offices; this may be inferred from the fact that, though nominated for this purpose by Sir Richard Temple, Bábu Girish Chundra Ghose and

Rajah Harendra Krishna have not been yet fortunate to obtain the coveted honor. The weak and vacillating policy of Lord Lytton's government is doubtless answerable for this. The people have nothing to hope for from His Lordship, so long as he is governed by his council.

15. Commenting on the tone of the vernacular literature, the *Samáj Darpan*, of the 16th February, remarks:—"In almost every poem one meets with at the present day, efforts, direct or indirect, are brought forward to secure the extinction of the Yavans. It may be said that this indicates a love of nationality; but a little reflection will show that in a very few cases only does this feeling exist, and that in the majority of instances fickleness predominates. We do not undervalue this feeling; but are no advocates for the manifestation of that special kind of patriotism just referred to. On the contrary, we are from our hearts opposed to it; for fickleness is but another name for such lip nationality." The tone of vernacular literature generally is sensual, low, seditious, and atheistical.

SAMAJ DARPAN,
February 16th, 1877.
Circulation about 460.

16. The same paper likens the partiality, shown by Government towards the members of the Civil Service, to the invidious distinctions that always existed in favor of Brahmins in ancient Hindu society. In both cases, the privileged class is found to be extremely jealous of the rights of the unfavored. The British Government, however, must be credited with a greater degree of political knowledge than was ever enjoyed by the Brahmins; for it has promised to admit the natives into the ranks of the Civil Service. But its natural inclination is struggling with its better sense, and so, uncertain assurances and half-hearted acts are the result. Government has been clearly caught this time in an attempt to ignore its promises, by the publication of Sir Richard Temple's Administration Report of Bengal, which clearly shows that two native officers were actually nominated for admission into the Civil Service.

SAMAJ DARPAN.

17. The *Grāmbartā Prakāshikā*, of the 17th February, regrets to notice that the District Education Committee of Nuddea has reduced the amount of its monthly grant to the Comercolly English school. It is feared this will seriously affect the efficiency of the institution. The attention of the authorities is directed to the subject.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
February 17th, 1877.
Circulation about 200.

18. While condemning the proposal, made by Sir Richard Temple, to create four new districts in Bengal for the purpose of benefiting the Civilians, on the ground that this will put the State to additional expenditure, the same paper agrees with him as to the necessity of forming one at Kooshtia, which is at present only a sub-division. In the Nuddea district, the sub-divisions are so numerous, that it is barely possible for the district officer to exercise any efficient supervision over the work of his subordinates. The central parts of Bengal are never allowed to remain under any district for any length of time; but are perpetually transferred from one district to another; the people living in these parts are thus put to considerable inconvenience, and their progress is hindered. As the head-quarters of the sub-division at Kooshtia is likely to be removed to Dadapore for the purposes of the Northern Bengal State Railway, while, in the interests of the public, a sub-division at Kooshtia is necessary, but cannot be efficiently administered by the district officer of Nuddea, the difficulty will be solved only by the formation of a district at this place.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

19. With such a large revenue, says the same paper, as is enjoyed by the Government of Bengal, it is strange that the rulers should be continually showing their unwillingness to undertake any measures for the improvement

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

of the country. The Education Department is constantly made a victim, and its efficiency impaired. The stamp fees have almost shut the door of justice to the poor, who are suffering oppressions at the hands of the rich and the powerful. Yet, on the other hand, Government spends public funds, derived from men holding different religious creeds, for the benefit of a single sect of Christians.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
February 17th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

20. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 17th February, dwells on the desirability of transferring Dakhin Bikrampore from the jurisdiction of the Furreedpore district to that of Dacca. A petition on this subject has been submitted to the Divisional Commissioner.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

21. The same paper complains of the inconvenience and loss occasioned to the people, from the perfunctory manner in which the officers, presiding over the civil courts in the Dacca district, dispose of the suits instituted before them. Owing to repeated adjournments, the witnesses are required to dance attendance from day to day. This state of things is due only to the indifference of the District Judge.

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 18th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

22. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 18th February, notices, with disappointment, the Viceroy's speech at Delhi, which has blighted the hopes of the educated natives. The editor exhorts his countrymen to put forth efforts to inform the English public of the true state of things in this country; and not to imitate the mock politeness which characterises their rulers, and which can make truth of falsehood, and *vice versa*.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 19th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

23. Adverting to the suggestion made by the *Times* that, in view of the oft recurring famines in India, brought about, as is supposed, by a want of the habit of self-restraint among the people, the Government should impose an income tax; and from the proceeds create a reserve fund for the suppression of future famines, the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 19th February, remarks that this calamity is not new to India, though of late years it has indeed been of more frequent occurrence. Famines occurred, in former ages also, when the population was small; and their outbreak is closely connected with the conditions of agriculture in this country, which entirely depends on rainfall. The chronic poverty of the people and their ignorance of the uses of irrigation, may also be regarded as important causes. The proposal of the *Times*, if carried out, will be rather injurious than beneficial. It will only hold out a premium to extravagance of expenditure, which is so characteristic of our rulers. The proper means of preventing the recurrence of famines are (1) an improvement of the condition of the people, (2) a habit of storing up and not selling surplus grain, and (3) construction of irrigation canals from the proceeds of the road cess.

SOMA PRAKASH.

24. In reference to the decline of wealthy and influential families, of late years, from a division of their landed property among the several co-sharers, the same paper suggests the need of enacting a new law of partition, wherein, among other things, it should be laid down that no estate should be divided, the sharers being entitled to the profits only; the chief portion of which, however, should go to the eldest son, as he is obliged to incur the expenses necessary to maintain the dignity of the family. The introduction of the law of primogeniture will be beneficial.

SOMA PRAKASH.

25. The same paper notices, with regret, that the motion of Mr. Fawcett in Parliament, for the appointment of an Indian Finance Committee has been negatived. Such a Committee was, indeed, greatly needed to expose the injustice of the Indian debt, the military charges, and the exclusion of natives from all high appointments under the Government of their country.

26. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 20th February, brings the following grievances of the native employés on the East Indian Railway, and of the native passengers, to the notice of the members of the approaching Railway Conference :—

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 20th, 1877.
Circulation about
3,000.

- (1.) Many of them, for want of proper rooms, are obliged to live under zinc roofs and in the watchmen's sheds; and these, under a hot sun, become excessively inconvenient.
- (2.) The native clerks are made to work after the regular hours, without any extra remuneration.
- (3.) They are dismissed for trifling faults.
- (4.) When it becomes necessary to reduce an establishment, the services of old employés are generally dispensed with, without any gratuity being given them.
- (5.) The passes granted to European servants of the Company are available for every member of their families and relatives; but those given to the natives are only available for wife and children.
- (6.) Native guards and drivers should be employed and encouraged.

As to the native passengers :—

- (1.) In every train there should be at least one through carriage of the third class, provided with bathing accommodation for females.
- (2.) One third class carriage should be set apart for females, and especially attended to.
- (3.) Female ticket collectors should be appointed to the more important stations.
- (4.) Refreshment rooms should be opened at every station where the engine is changed.
- (5.) The water-closets attached to the several stations should be so constructed as not to offend decency.
- (6.) When, from overcrowding or any other cause, passengers cannot find room in a train, their fare should be refunded, or their tickets made available for a subsequent train.
- (7.) As soon as the train stops at a station, a crier should inform the passengers how long it will remain there.
- (8.) In every compartment, there should not be more than eight passengers in the winter, or five in the hot season.
- (9.) In the mail train, third class tickets should be issued, for all the distance up to Allahabad.

27. The *Sámachar Chandriká*, of the 20th February, adverts to the irregular way in which summons of the Calcutta Small Cause Court are served in the absence of the defendants, who, in most cases, remain entirely ignorant of the matter until the production of a warrant shows them their position. Cases are often decided *ex parte*.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
February 20th, 1877.
Circulation about 625.

28. The *Qásid* advises Government to attend to the cry of some of the Hindi news-papers, and reform the *Hindi Government Gazette*, which has just been started.

QASID OR "THE
MESSENGER,"
February 12th, 1877.

29. Referring to the rumour, that a higher class school for Licentiates in Arts is to be established at Rungpore, the editor of this paper asks, When will Government think of raising the Bhagulpore school? and answers, Perhaps not till after the lapse of many years, as Behár does not seem to be much in favour with the authorities. The people of Behár are likewise advised

QASID OR "THE
MESSENGER."

to patronise local industries, such as the manufacture of cloth, to the exclusion of European importations, as is done in Bombay.—With reference to the late animated discussion at the Municipal meeting in Calcutta, on the subject of an address to the Empress of India, the editor, remarking on the conduct of Dr. Smith towards Babu Suréndranáth Banerji, says, verily flattery is found to prevail even under the English rule; for an outspoken man is treated just as the Bábu was; but a truly bold man will never fear.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR,
February 15th, 1876.

30. Referring to a recent theft, by a post office peon in Mozufferpore, in which some policemen too were involved, the editor of the *Akhbár-ul-Akhiár*, remarks that Government should not invariably employ men, as it now does, simply for their knowledge of English; but should look also to respectability of birth and position and honesty, for in the present case the Deputy Post Master was a *kahár* (bearer) by caste.

BEHAR BANDHU,
February 21st, 1877.

31. In commenting upon the amended Civil Procedure Code, the editor of the *Behár Bandhu* is of opinion, that the intent of the legislature seems to be to favour the debtor at the expense of the capitalist and the creditor; and he regrets that no capitalist has been yet found worthy of a seat in the Legislative Council. This must be attributed to their want of education; which, again, has rather tended to throw them the more into the power of their debtors. Thus section 360 will save a debtor, when arrested at the instance of a decreeholder, provided he swears that he has not concealed or done away with his property within two months after the decree; so that the law in a manner points out a period within which he may dispose of his effects, any time prior to the decree. In the opinion of the editor no period of time should be specified. Further, section 270 on foreclosure of mortgages should be enlarged.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 24th February 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 24th February 1877.

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhárat Shramjibí" ...	Baráhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Márh 1283 B. S.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	18th and 25th January 1877.
3	"Bhárat Sangskarak" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	12th February 1877.
4	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
5	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
6	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
7	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
8	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
9	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
10	"Samáj Darpan" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
11	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
14	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
15	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
16	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	17th to 22nd February 1877.
17	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th to 16th ditto.
18	"Sambád Párnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th to 23rd ditto.
19	"Qásid" (in Urdu) ...	Patna ...	Weekly ...	12th February 1877.
20	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár" (in Urdu.) ...	Mozuffurpore ...	Bi-monthly ...	15th ditto.
21	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	17th ditto.
22	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.